

# ARS PRO VITA



## I - Novæ Terræ

(16:00)

*to mankind*

*It's night on a deserted beach. A strong wind throws grains of sand against the figure of an old man, who silently walks by the shoreline, with a staff in his hand.*

*And he walked the whole night for seven years until he realized he was tired. At the very moment he stopped, the wind ceased and a full moon began to rise over the sea.*

*Facing it, he started to draw a big circle with the staff, writing four words in the sand: Passion. Courage. Reason. Intuition.*

*After closing the first circle, he restarted drawing the words, round and around, over and over, for seventy years.*

*As the moon completed its path across the sky, disappearing at the opposite side, he stopped walking. Then he sat in the center of the circle, and fell asleep.*

*After sleeping for seven hundred years he was awakened by the light of the sun. Around him, the words and the footsteps had been erased by the action of the tide.*

*Beneath a clear blue sky, he took the staff and began to walk again by the seashore. This time the man walked for seven thousand years, until he felt tired.*

*As the sun completed its path across the sky, falling at the opposite side, after seventy thousand years walking, he stopped as the wind ceased. And now. Two full moons rose over the sea.*

*Facing them, he draws a new big circle writing those same four words. And as it had happened before, he draws the words, walking round and around for seven hundred thousand years.*

*When the two moons completed their path across the sky, he stopped walking. He lays on the sand. And falls asleep again.*

Waking up at daybreak

The Old Man found himself drenched by the tide.

The words he wrote in the sand

Had disappeared

Washed by the waves

The shore was intact

As if nobody had stepped on it for a long long time

As if it were waiting for

Someone to take new steps

To draw new shapes

No one to talk to

No delight, no pain, no nothing to recall  
Just the sand, just the sea  
And a new path to find.

Silent thoughts and brilliant insights  
Travel across his boundless mind

And the Old Man takes his staff in his hand  
Seeking for brand new quests  
No fear in the heart  
He's ready to go.

Passion, Courage, Reason, Intuition are his words  
After sleeping for so long  
He awakes  
And retakes his walk, he's alone.  
He's alone again.

*Days and nights came and went.  
Another circle. The same words.*

*Seven times he repeated this cycle.  
Seven moons rose over the sea.  
Then at the first day of a new cycle,  
He saw another Old Man walking in his direction.  
As they get closer, they stopped and looked each other.  
Turning to the sea, they sat side by side.*

*That night, seven moons rose.  
The Old Men didn't fell asleep.  
They stared to the horizon.  
And after seven million years, the day broke.  
Two suns rose over the sea.*

*“Doesn't matter the way you explain life.  
What matters is that you explain life - in your way.”*

# II - Banquet in a Middle-Age Irish Castle

(28:54)

*to the brothers*

## i. The Barber And The Black Rooster

*Smile, you little human, smile, for you're sane.*

*By the way, what's sanity? They don't care about it.  
In fact, they worry about nothing. They can't appreciate the countless  
sunrises over the countless mountains. And they don't waste their time  
to decide which is more important to the picture: whether the sun or  
the mountains.*

*You look a little sick, don't you? Take a rest for a couple of centuries.  
Maybe when you wake up, you may find out something that makes you  
better comprehend ... the meaning of life.*

*Once there was a time when planet Earth was thought to be flat when  
people in England believed there was nothing beyond the cliffs of the  
very southwest part of their island – nothing but the infinite sea. That  
region was called “Land’s End”. That’s precisely where this story  
takes place.*

*Land’s End, summer of 1402, southwest of England.*

*Nearby, there was the small town of Sennen,  
Where a man was about to commit a... insanity.*

It's Monday morning,  
He opens his window to let the sun in  
Ears in the air, and eyes in the sky  
There was something he had to do  
He walks in the street, bare feet.  
Holding their breaths,

All the people around in astonishment

Were trying to guess what the hell he would do

Hidden behind their doors:

*Katherine Ward, embroiderer, 27: “Look at him, his eyes don’t blink...”*

*Cedric Ward, her son, 6: “Funny his pyjamas, mummy!”*

*Colin Withers, locksmith, 35: “Well, I think he’s just drunk!”*

Carrying a whip in one hand

And a huge knife in the other

Leonard, the barber, 66

Crosses the fence of the mayor’s house

Runs through the side corridor

Rushes to the backyard:

“Cock-Cock-a-doodle-doo!!!”

Stepping into the hen house,

He sees a big black rooster inside.

*Eugene Brackenbury, the mayor, 61: “The Devil caught his soul!”*

*Ethel Brackenbury, his wife, 58: “The Anti-Christ is here!”*

*Reverend Hammett, the vicar, 75: “It’s the Day of The Lord!”*

*Charles Melton, the acolyte, 20: “God, please save me first!”*

*The rooster started to run around the yard, trying to flee from Leonard, who was frenetically trying to catch it. In one of the turns, it found a way out to the street. So the race continued throughout the town.*

*Sword in his hand, the mayor followed him, along with the people running after him. It seemed they were going to lose the race. The rooster took the path out of the town, towards the very edge of Land’s End.*

*Through the vast plain, Leonard was trying to join the rooster’s legs by throwing his whip.*

*Heavy clouds now darken the sky and a strong wind begins to blow.*

*Running hard, in a last desperate attempt, Leonard cried out: “Cock-a-doodle-doo!!!” He drops the knife and throws the whip. Got it! But with a tremendous supernatural force, the rooster keeps on running, faster and faster, pulling Leonard by the whip, now flying over the ground. Close to the edge, the only way was... take off. And that’s what they did. Soon the barber and the black rooster little by little vanished in the air.*

So the black bird spreads its wings upon the sea,

Flying over the clouds,

Far beyond the stars,

Through the outer space,  
Towards the unknown.

*Leonard:*

*“I can see my bridges burning far behind.  
As I turn and look back,  
The man I used to be  
Gets lost in the past.”*

## **ii. Flying Fauna**

*Far from Earth, higher and higher above, the rooster continued leading Leonard. Now he finds himself inside something like a translucent capsule, connected to the rooster’s legs by means of some sort of an also translucent wire - an enchanted version of his old whip.*

*During the flight, he could see other beasts carrying other voyagers, all protected by the same structures. Out of the solar system, he could see a bright vast concentration of stars, in the form of a disk - the center of the Milky Way.*

*He presumed his capsule was being transported directly into the center of that bright white region. As he approached the center of the galaxy, in a certain moment he could clearly distinguish, right in front of him, a small black point. At the same time, he began to hear the distant sound of a simple pretty melody.*

### **Fauna’s Fugue**

*Closer and closer, as the black point became larger, so the music sounded louder.*

*Soon all animals were singing in a massive choir.*

*In fact, the black region proved to be a vortex, like a big mouth, attracting everything into its center, a black hole. As they approached, the flight speed was tremendously increased by its gravitational effect.*

*And so they reached the final boundary - the event horizon.*

*The music continued to play, now in reverse order. The animals dropped the capsules and disappeared, letting them inevitably to be swallowed.*

*Now the millions of capsules travel through the black hole. Leonard looks around and sees the other capsules vanish before his eyes, as he penetrates into a deep darkness.*

### **iii. White Spaceship**

*The String Theory - travel between parallel universes with wormholes. Could black holes be portals to other universes? Do black holes contain other universes? Equations predict that our universe may sit in another universe's black hole.*

*Now Leonard and his human fellows, each one inside his capsule, fly across the singularity. He watches his body to be stretched like a spaghetti. But he feels no pain. He recalls no memories. He's just a negligible part of that scenario.*

*He doesn't know yet, but soon he'll be about to test the String Theory.*

*After a while, Leonard's eyes capture a tiny white point ahead. The black-to-white journey had begun.*

The sensors of my eyes  
Detect a tiny sign.  
It's very real  
But I refuse to believe.  
Getting closer  
Growing and shining more and more.

Limits of my sight  
Obliterate my reason  
Entangled in its essence  
Exposed to the unknown  
I can only trust  
This white spaceship  
Knows exactly where to land

I sense my body changing fast  
I'm feeling so stretched  
Pain is an old story  
I'm about to forget

Can recall no memories from my past  
No matter how hard I try  
Time moves so slowly  
Nothing here makes sense

The white point grows ahead  
Approaching more and more  
But I feel safe inside my capsule  
With peace and confidence

The moment seems crucial  
Have no thoughts in mind  
The symbiosis is completed  
I'm at the speed of light

*In a certain moment, Leonard sees a tiny black vortex being formed at center. Spinning in the opposite direction of the white vortex, rapidly growing its size, the new black hole was attracting all capsules back to the dark space from where they entered.*

*The String Theory was right.  
At the end of the white-to-black journey, Leonard was thrown again into the dark space. And guess what was waiting for him?*

*(Black Rooster's voice)*

#### **iv. The Puzzle And The Last Supper**

*Once more the Black Rooster takes the control of the capsule and leads Leonard back to... guess what? Old Mother Earth. As he entered the atmosphere, the white capsule slowly began to melt as it began falling.*

*Touching the ground in a smooth landing, the capsule completely dissolved.*

*And now he found himself alone on a vast green plain,*

*dressed in... pyjamas...*

*... a very different Earth received him in Her arms.*

Back down to Earth  
So tired, he fell asleep  
On a plain of grass  
And then he dreamed  
He was inside a castle  
Trapped in a cage  
Hanged in the air  
When he woke up  
He was down at the bottom of a well  
Whose walls were made of red clay.

Looking above,  
By climbing he realized  
He could not scape  
Looking around,  
He found a passage  
Dug down in the wall  
It was so tight, so narrow  
The only way,  
There was no choice  
Except going through that hole

Inside in a wider hall,  
He found a rope down on the ground  
It seemed to indicate some path  
So he took it in his hands.

*The hall was the anteroom of what seemed to be a cave. In front of him, there was a long dark corridor, carefully build by someone who probably wanted to show the way out, leaving the rope as a guide. Like Perseus in the Labyrinth, Leonard entered the cave, following his Ariadne's thread.*

*Walking inside, the walls began to melt around him turning its red clay. Red drops of the red liquid turn into a red mud, then into a red stream and then into a red river, that dragged him down making him to submerge. Strange, but he could breathe.*

*Then he started to feel pressure and some pain, as he was forced to pass through the tunnel, which was becoming narrower and narrower.*

*Now he hears the distant screams of a woman.*

*The pain became unbearable.*

*When finally, he was expelled from the tunnel into an empty room. This room had a door that led to another room with another door to the next room, and so on. Twelve rooms connected by twelve doors, making a circle, so the twelfth door led to the first room - a mandala.*

In the first room, he learned to speak  
In the second, he wanted to eat  
In the third, he learned to read  
In the fourth, he wanted to breed  
In the fifth, he was a king, sitting on a throne  
In the sixth, he was a humble servant

In the seventh, he saw love  
In the eighth, he saw justice  
In the ninth, he was a priest  
In the tenth, he was wise  
In the eleventh, he saw people marching with their flags  
In the twelfth, he saw their spirits

*Getting out of the last room, Leonard was back again to the bottom of the well, but now he was so light he could escape by fluctuating. Then, right on the first try with a single jump, he fled back to the daylight.*

Outside the well  
He fluctuated  
Freely in the air  
And from above  
He saw his naked body  
Tied to a wooden table  
Scared, nothing could be done  
He was lost in that nightmare  
Maybe somewhere  
Between life and death

Animals of all species  
Suddenly appeared from every side  
Around the table  
They just wait...  
Knives fall from the sky!

*A rain of knives began to fall on the table around Leonard's quiet body, while hundreds of animals, one of each species, were standing around the table, as they were waiting for some sign. The black rooster drew a knife out of the table, so did the others. Hanging the knife in the air, it cried out: "Cock-a-doodle-doo!!!".*

*So they began cutting Leonard's body in a thousand pieces. Flying over his body, Leonard's soul trembled with fear, watching him to be swallowed slice by slice. And then, from the top of the clouds, a voice was heard.*

### *The Builder*

*"Come to my arms  
Take my hand  
I'm full of grace  
Lay your troubles over me  
Feel the beat of my heart.  
This is the end for mankind  
There will never be  
Another chance  
To start again"*

### *Genesis, 1:1-31*

*As told by Leonard*

*1 In the beginning Leonard created the hen and the farm.*

*2 And the farm was without form, and void. And darkness was upon the fence of the farm. And the Spirit of Leonard moved upon the fence of the farm.*

*3 And Leonard said, 'Let there be the light'. And there was the lamp.*

*4 And Leonard saw the lamp, that was good. And Leonard divided the light from the darkness.*

*5 And Leonard called the light Rooster, and the darkness he called Owl. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

*6 And Leonard said, 'Let there be a hen house in the midst of the grass, and let it divide the grass from the grass.'*

*7 And Leonard made the hen house, and divided the grass which was under the hen house from the grass which was above the hen house. And it was so.*

*8 And Leonard called the hen house Hen House. And the evening and the morning were the second day.*

*9 And Leonard said, 'Let the grass under the hen house be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so.*

10 And Leonard called the dry land Dry Land. And the gathering together of the grass called he Grass. And Leonard saw that it was very nice.

11 And Leonard said, 'Let the farm bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the farm.' And it was so.

12 And the farm brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and Leonard saw that it was getting better.

13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

14 And Leonard said, 'Let there be lamps in the hen house of the farm to divide the Rooster from the Owl; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.

15 And let them be for spotlights in the hen house of the farm to give light upon the farm'. And it was so.

16 And Leonard made two great spotlights, the greater to rule the Rooster, and the lesser to rule the Owl.

17 And Leonard set them in the hen house of the farm to give light upon the farm.

18 And to rule over the Rooster and over the Owl, and to divide the Rooster from the Owl. And Leonard was only starting.

19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

20 And Leonard said, 'Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that had life, and fowl that may fly above the farm upon the hen house of the farm.'

21 And Leonard created great bugs, and every living creature that moveth, which the grass brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind. And Leonard saw that it was excellent.

22 And Leonard blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the grass with the bugs, and let fowl multiply in the farm.'

23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

24 And Leonard said, Let the farm bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the farm after his kind. And it was so.

25 And Leonard made the beast of the farm after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that crept upon the farm after his kind. And Leonard saw that it was amazing.

26 And Leonard said, 'Let us make The Egg in our image, after our likeness. And let it have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air,

*and over the cattle, and over all the farm, and over every creeping thing that creeped upon the farm.*

*27 So Leonard created The Egg in his own image, in the image of Leonard created he him; male eggs and female eggs created he them.*

*28 And Leonard blessed them. And Leonard said unto them, 'Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the farm, and subdue it. And have dominion over the worm of the tree, and over the fowls of the air, and over every living thing that moved upon the farm.'*

*29 And Leonard said, 'Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the farm, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed. To you it shall be for aperitif.'*

*30 And to every beast of the farm, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creeped upon the farm, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for aperitif. And it was so.*

*31 After six days, Leonard had created many things. And at the end, he saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was the best thing he could do.*

*Finally, after sleeping the whole weekend, Leonard is waked up by his old friend - "Cock-a-doodle-doo!"*

*Cedric Ward, Katherine Ward's son, 6:*

*"Mummy, who came first - 'twas the hen ? 'twas the egg ? or both ?"*

*"The only person you can really count, every day of your life, is yourself."  
L.F.P.V.*

# III – Threads (Burn All Bridges)

(5:34)

*to the fathers*

Don't  
Look  
Back  
Seek  
Your  
Path  
It's  
Time  
You  
Must  
Burn  
All  
Bridges

*“Burn all bridges that were left behind”. (D.J.V.)*

# IV - Lazarus And His Beloved

(22:00)

*to life*

*Adapted from Gibran Khalil Gibran's novel and original play*

## **i. Hot Sands Of Bethany, 33 A.D. (Asleep)**

*Lazarus of Bethany considered himself a man of simple thoughts, and simple things. But also he always considered to himself that he had some destiny, that he was someone with a special purpose. One day he had a dream, where he was wandering alone over the hills near his home. Unhappy because he was alive, after being resurrected by his friend Jesus of Nazareth, to testify His miracle. Unhappy, because during the short period that he was dead, he encountered his soul mate at the Parnassum, and they found completeness in their love. But at a sudden, he was resurrected, finding himself in the cold grave where his body was left. Devastated in this nightmare, he waked up, sobbing. The days that followed showed a very different man, haunted by that dream, perhaps more than a dream.*

## **ii. Far From The Grave (The Journey)**

*John, 11:1-14*

*Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.*

*His sisters sent unto him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick."*

*When Jesus heard that, he said: This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God,*

*that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.*

*When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was. Then after that saith he to his disciples: "Let us go into Judaea again." His disciples say unto him: Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?"*

*Jesus answered: "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this*

*world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.”*

*These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples: “Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.” Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.”*

### **iii. Soulmates In Parnassum (Death After Life)**

Once there  
He recovers his senses again  
At the end of the journey  
Time seems to have stopped

And now  
In that strange place he wants to be sure  
If those forms of life he sees  
Are real or not

He's dead  
But somehow he feels good  
Someone comes near  
And Lazarus exults:

#### **Lazarus**

*My love, am I still alive?  
How did I get here?  
In this place full of lights  
You're the brightest of all  
Many nights have I dreamed of you  
Many tears have I shed  
Now at last my handcuffs  
Have all been dissolved.*

#### **Lazarus:**

*Excited,  
Contented,  
I see my Self.*

**Lazarus' beloved:**

*Built by the sands of time  
Our love still grows - eternal flame  
Someday I feel  
We shall be joined as one*

**Lazarus:**

*So freely,  
So plainly,  
We see our souls.*

**Beloved:**

*How can we be so sure  
If life seems far to be understood  
Much wider than our vision can embrace?*

**Beloved:**

*Keep inside your ecstasy  
You must be very strong.  
Your people is waiting for you  
They have to see you alive  
For this is the way their minds  
They shall see the power of God*

**Lazarus and Beloved:**

*They shall see the power of God*

**Lazarus**

*If these words I'm hearing now  
Match the plans of God,  
It won't be easy  
To accept my fate  
Oh, why did He choose me?*

**iv - The Return (Life After Death)**

*Why me?  
Out of a billion souls  
Am I the chosen one?  
An after-death, an after-life  
Just to testify the Son of Man*

*I can see  
Very clearly now  
My destiny at last*

*To be a part  
Of some bigger plan  
Pursuing my quest*

*Like a tiny piece of a puzzle  
I must do my best*

*To find out  
What's my role  
In this play*

*It's cold  
I feel so bad in this dark grave  
From the deep of the cave  
My body rises once more*

*You all!  
Now you got me back to this world again  
My beloved, I miss so much  
But now I know how to find her*

*Maybe today I'm very sad  
With everything that in this world I see  
But now that I knew the other side  
All the things are clear to me*

*Life goes on and on - it never ends  
That's the way it has to be  
And the Cords of Life  
Keep weaving forever*

# V – Cords

## (Have Courage, Be Kind)

(3:14)

*to the mothers*

Where did it go  
That ever-smiling face  
We used to see in our mirror?  
We used to dream most of the time  
And we spent the days just playing our happy games  
And it was so easy to move on  
It was so simple to understand  
That life wants  
Nothing more... than staying alive

From where I stand  
I watch my body laid so peaceful  
I know  
That  
Soon this old mass of flesh and bones  
Will turn into ashes  
So that  
Life can thrive and start  
Again

*"I go, but I go upset." (S.B.P.V.)*

This work is a tribute to life and all people that share this life with us.  
This album is dedicated to Daltro Jardim Garcia, Marcus Herbert Jones and Yeddo Braga Blauth, members of 'Aleph'. A toast to the memories of those old good days!